

CHALLENGE



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Communists 2, Fascists 0

Reds Beat Nazi Scum

SACRAMENTO, CA, June 23—At the State Capitol today, the communist Progressive Labor Party physically whipped the local Nazi scum while bringing red leadership to a mass of anti-racists.

The white-supremacist Traditionalist Worker Party (TWP) and their arch-racist honcho, Matthew Heimbach (described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as “the new face of hate”), made the grave mistake of trying to rally by the Capitol building. In concert with dozens of anti-fascists, a PLP contingent ran toward the fascists to stop them in their tracks. The first clash left three anti-fascists with stab wounds but sent the cowardly racists running.

Based on our Party’s collective experience against similar cockroaches in Anaheim in February and in Charleston, South Carolina last summer, our comrades used wooden poles because we assumed the fascists might have knives. We were correct—and the poles punished the fascist scum. We pursued them down the street, beat them three more times and busted their car windows. The fascist TWP members were bloodied and defeated!

PLP understands that mass, organized revolutionary violence will be necessary for the working class to seize state power from the capitalist bosses. For now, we must treat opportunities to confront racist terrorists as training for the revolutionary period in the future.

Expose Racism, Long March to Communism

Before the planned TWP rally, a multiracial



Communists and friends beat Nazi vermin. The red flag served many purposes.

communist contingent of 18 PL comrades—students, workers, and retirees; women and men; Black, Latin, and white—marched onto the Capitol lawn, chanting, “Death, death, death to the Nazis! Power, power, power to the workers!” The presence of PLP was well-received by the many

different anti-fascist groups along the sidewalk.

As the PLers distributed CHALLENGE and leaflets, an anti-fascist leader approached us and explained their main goal: to stop the fascists from

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

► the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Brexit’s No Exit From Capitalism

Leave Capitalism!

Over the past two generations, as capitalists have shut down industry after industry while stalking the globe for ever-lower labor costs, the working people of Great Britain have seen their standard of living decline under both Labour and Conservative Party rule (New Yorker 6/16). Over the same period, immigration of Eastern European, Asian, Middle Eastern and African workers into the UK has allowed rulers to super-exploit the newcomers and drive down wages of jobs that remain. The Brexit vote won’t reverse that process.

The Leave campaign, led by Conservative Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage of the gutter-racist, arch-nationalist UK Independent Party, carried the day by scapegoating immigrants for the failures of capitalism in Britain. But the Remain forces—like Hillary Clinton liberals in the U.S.—are an even greater danger. A coalition of mainstream Conservative, Labourites, and Liberal Democrats, these are the same bosses who have thrown millions out of work, eroded workers’ standard of living, and shredded the National Health Service.

On the eve of World War I, leaders of many communist parties were convinced the capitalists were too inter-dependent to go to war. Once war arrived, they forgot the essential Marxist slogan, “Workers of the World Unite,” and led the workers of each imperialist country to side with “their” national bosses. The Russian Bolsheviks’ answer to imperialist war—communist revolution—remains the greatest lesson in the history of the international working class.

The reality is that racism is deadly for all workers, including white workers. The 17 million workers who voted to leave the EU acted against their own interests—not in their rejection of 21st-century capitalism and imperialism, but in their turn toward nationalism and racism. Lacking communist leadership, they are being led down the path to rising fascism by both of the British bosses’ camps. Only communism, a system run by workers in the interests of workers, can solve the unceasing attacks of inequality, poverty, unemployment, and racism that led many workers to vote Leave.

A Class-Conscious Alternative

Amid the furor of Brexit, a few hundred UK rail workers are demonstrating the kind of class consciousness that—if coupled with revolutionary communist politics—represents the only true alternative for the working class. In Scotland, greedy rail bosses want to replace conductors (who safely open and shut train doors) with ticket-takers (who guarantee the bosses’ revenue and profit). These workers are striking not mainly to protect their pay, benefits and jobs but rather to protect their fellow-worker passengers from injury.

Workers of the world need an exit from capitalism. Voting in lose-lose bosses’ elections won’t get us there. We need hundreds and thousands of class struggles like the ScotRail strike, like the Ferguson rebellion, linked by communist politics. The Progressive Labor Party fights for international working-class unity by making anti-racism and anti-sexism primary in all of our local work. In a communist world, workers will be free to live and work wherever our class’s need is greatest. A communist world will put an end to imperialist war. We won’t win that world until we overcome the divisions the bosses work overtime to sow between us. Join us!🇸🇰

For workers, the June 23 Brexit referendum—for Great Britain to leave the European Union—was a lose-lose scenario, a fight between two camps of rapacious, racist capitalist bosses. At the same time, the anti-EU vote reflects workers’ disaffection with the decaying profit system, a big setback for U.S. rulers in their inter-imperialist competition with Russia and China—and another step toward global instability and World War III.

Formally established in 1993, the EU grew out of the post-World War II order imposed by U.S. capitalism in its Cold War against the Soviet Union. Alongside institutions like NATO, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, the EU allied with U.S. imperialism and helped project U.S. economic power. More recently, U.S. rulers’ efforts to impose their will on the world—and preserve their control over cheaply extracted oil in the Middle East—have led to grossly mismatched wars against small-power regimes in Iraq and Libya.

In wars hot and cold, Great Britain (also known as the United Kingdom, or UK) has been U.S. imperialism’s most faithful ally. For more than two decades, the UK has played a vital role for the U.S. ruling class in convincing other EU members to support wars in the Middle East and beyond. It has sent troops to support NATO missions in Africa and Eastern Europe (Foreign Policy, 6/16), and is a reliable partner in the U.S. bosses’ intelligence and surveillance operations.

Russia Gains at U.S. Expense

While the Brexit vote may not alter the commitment of key British ruling-class forces to continue to play that role (forbes.com 6/24), it removes the most reliable ally of U.S. imperialism from a position of influence inside the European Union. Before the Brexit vote, Great Britain was one of the most persistent voices pushing the EU to lay sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, despite sizable Russian holdings of London real estate and a presence in the London financial sector (openurope.org).

In short, Brexit weakens the EU and emboldens Russia. According to a Twitter post by Michael McFaul, a former U.S. ambassador to Russia, “Putin benefits from a weaker Europe. UK vote makes EU weaker. It’s just that simple” (@McFaul, 6/24).

Even if the UK ruling class succeeds in ignoring the referendum or declaring it null and void for constitutional reasons (New York Times, 6/27), Europe may be beginning to fracture. The bailout of Greece and the Syrian refugee crisis have put a number of national ruling classes in survival mode. Border fences go up while Germany tries to hold it all together.

Most of the City, London’s Wall Street, sided with the “Remain” camp—including leading members of the Rothschild family, the British financier equivalent of the Rockefellers. But it appears that a lesser wing of the British ruling class – with Russian backing –has organized a movement around the opposite view. Russia’s English-language media outlets have mocked the EU as chaotic and restrictive for its member states, rhetoric that fed the “Leave” forces. Leaders of the Britain National Party and Britain First, far-right elements of the Leave campaign, have attended neo-Nazi meetings in St. Petersburg (Daily Beast, 6/8/15).

No Refuge for Racist Murderers

CHICAGO, June 25—A passionate crowd of 30 PLers and anti-racist friends boldly rallied at the home of Jason Van Dyke, the kkkop who brutally murdered Black teenager LaQuan McDonald in October 2014. Organized mainly through women leadership and under the slogan “No Refuge for Racist Murderers,” the anti-racist fighters marched directly to Van Dyke’s house in the Archer Heights neighborhood, to drive home the message that a killer cop will not live in comfort while working people continue to live in terror by the capitalist state.

The rally began at noon, with bold anti-racist chants and a picket line meeting curious onlookers at an intersection not far from the house. As more participants filtered in, the multi-racial, multi-generational group began its march through the working class neighborhood towards his residence. There were some jeers and insults sent our way, but overall, the response we received, especially from the younger workers, was positive. Many on the block took videos with phones, and a number of them came up directly to us to take fliers and newspapers and learn more about the demonstration.

For the majority of the action, it was clear that we had caught the kkkops with their guard down. In fact, those of us towards the front of the march saw Van Dyke scurry into the



house from where he was watering his front yard when he saw us approaching! However, as we continued our march back to our cars, the cops began their harassment tactics. A number of squad cars pulled up, with officers trying to intimidate the comrades with the bullhorns, saying we were “breaking the law.” We met their bulls*** tricks by chanting louder and refusing to allow the racist pigs to separate the marchers.

They issued one of our comrades a citation, but all those present left the demonstration safe and empowered by our collective action.

No Safe Spaces for Killer Racists

The march culminated with us arriving at Van Dyke’s house, and driving a sign with the heading “Guilty of Racist Murder,” complete with the pig’s mugshot, in his front lawn. We continued to picket in front

of his house as PLers on the bullhorn explained the connections between racist killer cops and capitalism. As PLP has consistently pointed out, the degradation and poverty that are inevitable under capitalism make it essential for the ruling class to unleash their attack dogs on workers when they eventually rise up to resist the system’s miserable conditions. Police murders are not the actions of

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Shantel Davis

Four Years Later, No Justice Under Capitalism

BROOKLYN, June 14—Today marked four years since the day that the NYPD brutally shot down Shantel Davis. A multi-racial group of about 30 PLP members and friends and some other community organizers congregated with Shantel’s family on the street corner where she was killed to commemorate her life and our four years of fightback. With heavy faces and tear-stained eyes, our collective stood with a myriad of white balloons. In the wake of four years of fighting back against tragedy, one theme remained present throughout the night: Justice for Shantel and all victims of police brutality means nothing short of communist revolution.

The rally began with bullhorn speeches by PL members, the Davis family, and the families of other members of the working class who have been murdered by the kkkops, such as Ramarley Graham, Mohamed Bah, and Anthony Baez. Speeches were bolstered by chants from the crowd of “Racism means we got to fight back!” and “We will never forget Shantel! We will always fight for Shantel!” in between. We then blocked traffic in all four directions of the intersection as we formed a huge circle in the center. As traffic piled up, drivers were told why we were there and they stood in support. More remarks were made over the bullhorn as members of the neighborhood looked on and recorded the spectacle of a multiracial group of protesters on their phones.

Shantel’s sister delivered a particularly heartbreaking speech. She thanked

PL and all in attendance for their extended support in the fightback against this grave tragedy. Her sister had been callously killed on false pretenses, shot in the chest while begging for her life, and her family hadn’t even been afforded the opportunity to properly grieve. Their first task had been to reverse the smear campaign set out by the bosses’ media, which was set in motion immediately after her death, describing Shantel as a criminal monster. Anything to try to convince the community that it was a necessary and justified killing! The reality is that it is the NYPD acting as the neighborhood thugs, violently instilling fear in the working class. In fact, the detective who killed Shantel is particularly known as a menace in the neighborhood—“Bad Boy” Atkins.

Shantel’s sister ended her speech choking past tears, with the words, “I just don’t know what to do anymore...” This speaks volumes about what capitalist “justice” means—there is none! Over the past four years, she has become an incredible, strong leader in the fightback movement against police brutality, but this is what a fight for reform, for a “fix” to the justice system, does to working class morale. Only communism smashes the racism that built this system, and so only the long-term fight for that world can keep us feeling that we can win. PLP knows what to do—and the families of kkkop victims are being won to that idea.

In the months immediately following Shantel’s murder, a group of mislead-



ers tried to convince Shantel’s family that in order to get justice for their sister, they shouldn’t be too militant, as it would make it harder to win within the legal system. These anticommunists “cautioned” Shantel’s family that we in PLP were there for “our own reasons” and we “didn’t really care about Shantel.” 4 years later, the politicians have disappeared and it has become obvious that winning within the legal system is a myth. While the misleaders preached a “behind-the-scenes” approach, we fought for and won Shantel’s sisters to the strategy of organizing a justice committee, along with some of their close friends, to fight back militantly.

The struggle to move our marches from the sidewalks to the streets came out of a bigger political struggle to see that the biggest wins could only come

from showing our strength as a multi-racial group fighting back in the streets, to see the courts and politicians as part of the same system as the cops—and to see their fight as part of a bigger working class fight, even if they never see capitalist “justice” for their family member.

This evening ended on a note of hope. We released our white balloons decorated with notes: ‘Justice for Shantel’, ‘We will always fight for Shantel’, ‘Fight for Communist Revolution’. One comrade made this poetic observation as the balloons floated into the sky: “They’ve gone so far, and they’re still sticking together.” Let us take this metaphor as a reminder of how we must fight daily to strengthen our force of multi-racial working class unity, build PLP and work towards revolution, so one day we may all receive justice.✪

Working-Class Unity Defeats Religious Divisions

SOUTH INDIA, June 21— A community organizer who shares Progressive Labor Party's (PLP) anti-racist outlook united Hindu and Muslim workers, countering India's ruling-class arch bent towards fascism.

This struggle ensued when a follower of the Hindu religion placed a stone in the middle of a public street as a symbol of religious devotion. This was seen as provocative and Muslim workers were angered by this and were planning actions against it. This is during the Muslim religious month of Ramadan, where Muslims fast all day every day to commemorate the first revelation of their religious text, the Quran. Some Hindu workers were also beginning to mobilize. Tensions were high.

The community organizer immediately met with both the Hindu and Muslim workers. After some serious debate and struggle, they were able to resolve the conflict. This built more trust among the working class's ability to solve problems without buying into the divisive bait of

religious strife.

This set an example for others in this city to follow and for members and friends of PLP worldwide to follow as we continue to work to oppose racist exploitation and build unity against the different kinds of racism all over the world.

Using Religion to Divide Workers

The serious work of this fighter helped prevent a dangerous situation that could further feed the drive towards fascism. The right wing, nationalist government of prime minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is building fascism (all-class unity during a capitalism system in crisis) by breeding conflict and violence against the Muslim working class.

The capitalist system uses religious conflict, like they use other kinds of racism, as a way to exploit the working class and divide us. As the system moves closer to fascism, this conflict gets more intense. In India, the Modi government is tak-

ing this to new extremes, using people's religious feelings to build fascism. Modi is well known for his anti-Muslim racism. When he was chief minister of the state of Gujarat, his security forces stood by as over a 1,000 Muslims were slaughtered in 2002. The evidence was so strong that he ordered his security forces to allow this massacre, which the United States denied him an entry visa in 2005.

His anti-Muslim racism also didn't hamper him from becoming prime minister of the country. His racism is no isolated incident. In fact, Modi's BJP is the political wing of the extreme right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), an organization founded in 1925 and openly modeled on Mussolini's National Fascist Party.

No Small Act

The actions of our friend might seem like a small act, but in many parts of India, violent conflict has broken out against Muslims and this is a part of the racist strategy to control not only the Muslim working

class, but also the Hindu working class.

Sincere members of the working class can get tricked into fighting against our working-class sisters and brothers. As Karl Marx wrote in *Das Kapital*: "Labor in the white skin can never free itself as long as labor in the black skin is branded." Multiracial unity is fundamental to defeating capitalism.

Real communists today understand that no member of the working class can ever be free as long as there is any exploitation or oppression of workers from any group. That is why we try to win workers to a scientific understanding of the world, rather than a theological one. There are no real differences between Muslim and Hindu workers—our history and earthly fate are tied to each other and our level of class struggle.

Workers in India, and all over the world, must join with the Progressive Labor Party and build a worldwide movement for communism! You can get started by reading and distributing our local CHALLENGE!✪

No Refuge for Racist Murderers

Continued from page 3

"a few bad apples;" they are a necessary part of the ruling class' strategy to control the working class through fear and violence. We see this especially in Chicago where, within the last five years alone, kkkops have killed 70 people, the majority of whom are Black and Latin.

No justice will ever come from a system that desperately needs police murder and other forms of violence against workers to maintain itself. Yes, Van Dyke was formally charged with murder but if he is convicted (unlikely), he'll be characterized as an isolated bad apple, and state terror will go on as business as usual. If he's acquitted, it will only lend more power to the idea that Chicago cops can kill young Black and Latin workers with impunity. Either way, the bosses' racist apparatus will continue unchecked. The only way to forever get rid of police murders is to organize a mass international communist revolution that overthrows capitalism and establishes a worker-run society based on commitment and need.

Collective Struggle Leads to Bolder Action

The planning for this demonstration actually began a few months ago, when a comrade was made aware of Van Dyke's home address. It was quickly decided that a militant, anti-racist action was essential for Party work in the area, and the event slowly but surely began to take form.



Over this period, we met numerous times in meetings large and small as we struggled with our ourselves and our base members over the best ways to organize the action.

We had to challenge reluctance expressed in liberal ideas about "justice" under capitalism to the rational fear involved in marching directly on a kkkop's house. We also had to sharpen our arguments as to why the event was a necessary step forward for not just us as communists, but for all anti-racist workers in the

area in the struggle against racist police brutality and the capitalist system that requires it. We needed to promote the event to a broad audience, while never allowing our communist line to be watered down or the participants' security to be compromised.

The march was a success by all of those involved. In the fight for communism, struggling with ourselves and with our base members is important for sharpening contradictions and building a stronger collec-

tive. Our action is a testament to this fact. To build off of the momentum, we're already planning a follow-up social, the PL summer projects, and an even larger demonstration at the city's Fraternal Order of Police Headquarters. We will fight to make these follow-up events successful because the world needs to know that there's a better system out there for all—communism. Under communism there will be no refuge for racist murders! Dare to struggle, dare to win!✪

Reds Beat Nazi Scum



“We pursued them down the street, beat them three more times and busted their car windows. The fascist TWP members were bloodied and defeated!”

leaving the parking garage and set-

ting foot on the Capitol grounds.

I Joined the Party After Battling Fascists

During the planning meeting for the Sacramento Nazi rally, it was hard to comprehend what exactly it would mean to “shut down a fascist rally,” but I felt confident in the capacity and organization of the PL members sitting around the table. The older members showed a level of respect and confidence towards their younger comrades that I have never seen before during my time organizing in the mass movement.

The moment we began marching towards the state building it felt clear to me what we were doing and why it needed to be done. I felt strong knowing I was going into battle with PLP. As we marched on the sidewalk chanting, “death, death, death to the fascists! Power, power, power to the workers!” other anti-fascist groups appeared surprised by our brazen entrance.

My PL team’s role for the day was to lead chants on the megaphone, and to support the PLP team clashing with the Nazis in any way we could. It was an incredible feeling for me to get on the megaphone and scream out, “power to the workers!” and hear it echoed back hundred times louder.

The leadership of my group remained disciplined and focused during the most chaotic moments throughout the day, and they made decisions only after involving other group members in the process. It was this kind of Party discipline that kept us safe that day. No one was arrested.

The level of commitment, trust, and love for the working class that I’ve experienced throughout the last three months of working with PL members has made it clear that the Party is my only path towards fighting for a society free of exploitation and racism. I joined the Party after the rally and look forward to fighting for a communist world.

The main goal for PLP was to defeat the fascists and build a movement for communist revolution to smash racism once and for all. We made speeches tying the kkkops, the Nazis, and the California State Legislature together as tools of the capitalist class. The role of the TWP is to win the white working class to attack their working-class sisters and brothers, scapegoating Black, Muslim and Latin workers for the spiraling crisis of capitalism. The role of the police is to protect the gutter racists on the street, the slick-talking racists in the government, and the suit-and-tie racists in the capitalist business world. The state’s Democratic Party, which has historically controlled California, led the way in racist mass incarceration, increasing the prison population by 572 percent between 1980 and 2010 (Washington Post, 5/18).

Our role as communists is to expose liberal racists like Hillary Clinton as the greater danger to the working class, as proven by her racist, sexist record against the working class as a U.S. senator and Secretary of State. If elected, Clinton will pave the way for inter-imperialist war by accelerating the rise of fascism in the rulers’ embattled profit system.

Red Discipline vs. Anarchy

After a scout reported that the fascists weren’t in the parking garage, we collectively decided to take the Capitol steps and make the scum come to us. They came wielding pepper spray. Anarchist forces successfully counter-attacked one fascist and then got into a skirmish with the police.

Instead of running around the Capitol lawn, the PLP contingent maintained discipline. Our friends played critical roles in the planning and execution of the strategy. Two young women helped lead chants throughout the day, and one young man was a part of the sub-contingent that slammed the racists. Their contribution was crucial to the quality of political leadership the Party was able to provide.

After witnessing our organiza-

tion in action, a lefty leader told PLP to coordinate the crowd of 200 anti-fascists. A PL member gave a speech calling for a unified, organized march back to the Capitol steps to shut down the fascists. The crowd followed our leadership. Shortly thereafter, we advanced towards the fascists and bloodied them.

Coming after our successful action in Anaheim, this is the second battle the Party has waged against the fascist forces this year. Our comrades’ courage and boldness reflects PLP’s long history of beating, shutting down, and weakening the Ku Klux Klan, other racist organizations like ROAR, and racist bosses at our jobs and schools. Our power comes from our confidence in the working class’s ability to understand our ideas and fight for communist power.

She Joined the Reds

While anarchist fighters can be bold, they lack the revolutionary discipline and organization that comes only from communist leadership. For example, some militant fighters were injured because they thought they could defeat the fascists in isolated hand-to-hand combat.

Our battle in Sacramento showed one friend of the Party the necessity of organized collective action to defeat fascists. It showed another friend that “the Party provides the only clear path towards ending exploitation and building working-class power.” She has now joined PLP. Welcome the newest brave member of our Party, a woman whose leadership to and from the working class has just begun.

The TWP has announced that they will defend supporters Donald Trump, the openly racist U.S. presidential candidate, at the Republican Convention in Cleveland in July. Much as Brexit was promoted with virulent anti-Muslim racism (see page 2), the bosses use extreme racist groups like the TWP to divide and exploit the working class in the U.S. But with a small but rising communist PLP, the working class can oppose these fascist tendencies and unite as one class against capitalism.

PLP is organizing students, workers and soldiers into a red army that

is capable of waging revolutionary war against the capitalist class and their state apparatus, from the police and military to the courts and mass media. PLP fights for a world where workers will control all aspects of society.

As communists, we understand that building a revolutionary movement for and by the working class requires organization, commitment to each other, and reliable leadership. We are building a mass party around the world—join the communists!✊

I See Red Freedom Poles

This working-class poem, written by a fellow fighter with PLP, depicts the tumult and confusion preceding the clash of communists against the yellow-bellied fascist who were beaten with wooden poles.

The hot peppers
Caught in my throat.
Coughed out spices
Of warning.
Only to be
Mirrored by the reflections
Of my own
To protect.

Voices that came to gather
Soon forced
Bodies to separate,
To be gathered soon,
After
In different forces.

Black shadows
Against
Other black shadows.
Fist clashed
Against
Flesh.

Hard to depict.
Hard to understand.
Who is who?
What is What?
As confusion comes
I see
the RED freedom poles.

U.S. Bosses Debate Mideast Strategy, No Gains for Workers

U.S. imperialist terrorist-in-chief Obama's current Middle East strategy prioritizes military action against ISIS. However, as Russia continues to challenge U.S. imperialist ambitions in oil-rich Syria and the Middle East as a whole, top U.S. State Department officials are calling for more aggressive military strategies to counter Russia's increasing influence. As this rivalry intensifies the threat of even wider imperialist wars loom on the horizon.

Key U.S. Policy Planners Reject Obama's Current Course

The State Department officials' message, entitled "Dissent Channel: Syria Policy," advocates making regime change in Syria the highest priority. They want to remove Russia's imperialist-backed Syrian president Bashar al-Assad from power. The officials call for precision air strikes against Assad's regime, cynically posing as concern for workers in Syria. The officials state "Assad's systematic violations against the Syrian people are the root cause of the instability that continues to grip Syria and the broader region."

If these policies are implemented, they will dramatically increase the danger of a military confrontation between Russia and U.S.-led NATO forces. Russia has been providing military support against the threat ISIS and anti-Assad fighters pose to Assad, including massive air strikes by Russian warplanes. The Obama administration and the Pentagon also claim defeating ISIS their top priority. Both of these imperialist powers are really after strategic control of global oil supplies, and neither one can afford to concede any part of the Middle East to the other.

Importantly, Russia's ally Iran, itself a regional imperialist power, is a key supporter of Assad. A more aggressive U.S. imperialist strategy in the Middle East threatens the temporary cooperation Iran's bosses have offered to the U.S., in exchange for money.

Iranian, Russian Bosses Have Temporary Upper Hand

With such risks to U.S. imperialism, why is there such support among the U.S. policymaking establishment to explicitly provoke their Russian rivals? Part of the answer involves the fascist bosses of two key, but embattled U.S. imperialist allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia. Both allies are currently fighting Iran-backed militia forces, and U.S. policymakers fear that despite the Iran bosses' appearances of cooperating with the U.S., they continue to secretly fund militias to further destabilize U.S. control.

In neighboring Lebanon, the Israeli bosses fear the Iran-backed Shiite militias of Hezbollah more than any other immediate threat. The rise of ISIS in Syria has temporarily distracted Hezbollah, which fights on the side of Assad in Syria. In addition, Yemen, on Saudi Arabia's southern border, is torn apart by civil war between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the local pro-Saudi regime. In response, Saudi Arabia has conducted indiscriminate air strikes across Yemen, killing thousands of workers.

U.S. Policymakers Want Reality-Based Imperialism

The U.S. bosses knew that the recent agreements allowing Iran access to billions of dollars frozen in U.S. bank accounts was a calculated risk. The current disagreement is an acknowledgment that Iran has not stopped its regional imperialist aspirations. These aspirations only benefit Iran's bosses and, ultimately Russia's imperialism. The "Dissent Channel" faction of policymakers acknowledges the reality that the U.S. military isn't in Syria to fight ISIS, but rather to stop Russia's influence.

The current Obama policy is a very simple divide-and-conquer strategy. It seeks to prevent any possible contender from achieving Middle East dominance (R. Kaplan, "Warming to Iran"; Foreign Policy, Jan.-Feb. 2015.). In particular, the Iran-led Shiite forces, with support from Russia and Iraq on one side, are pitted on the other side against the extremely wealthy Saudi and Gulf Cooperation Council dictatorships more closely al-

lied with the U.S.

The State Department officials' dissenting strategy, influenced by the critical Israeli and Saudi interests, re-orientes the strategy directly against Russia. This strategy is based on the knowledge that the U.S. and NATO allies have missiles in position to strike Russia as needed. (See "U.S. activating missiles in Europe despite Russian warning"; PressTV, May 11.) These are the lengths the U.S. imperialists are willing to go to defend their declining, but lethal empire. The Russian bosses, smelling blood, have shown they are equally willing to spill workers' blood to prevent the U.S. from reestablishing dominance over the Middle East.

PLP Fights To Smash Imperialism With Communism

Workers internationally are not served by a U.S.-ruled or Russia-ruled Middle East. We have nothing to gain by following the lead of any of the imperialists, royalists, theocrats or other reactionaries. Neither do workers in any of the imperialist countries of the U.S., Iran, or Russia. In these countries, workers are facing an onslaught of fascist cuts to living standards in order to finance the bosses' imperialist adventures. The bosses in all countries have intensified anti-immigrant racism, especially against the millions of refugees forced from the imperialist devastation in Syria.

The bosses cannot fight wars with soldiers who would rather turn the guns around on their officers and fight for communism. The Black worker-led rebellions in Ferguson and Baltimore showed that not only are many Black workers and youth more willing to fight the U.S. bosses than enlist in the U.S. Army, but also that millions of white, Asian, Latin, Muslim and Jewish workers were inspired by Black resistance to racist police terror.

PLP is organizing a mass Party to "fight like Ferguson" against the capitalist bosses of all countries for communist revolution. We have a world to win, but it can only be won with communist leadership. Building an international communist movement led by PLP is the solution.✪



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Class war erupts in France

NYT, 6/19 and 6/12 — ...[In] months of demonstrations in the streets...workers...have blocked oil refineries, nuclear plants, factories and the country's rail network. The unrest has been set off by a government overhaul of...making hiring and firing easier and weakening the unions' grip....

[In Paris] all up and down the boulevard, store windows were smashed.... Young men clambered on top of bus shelters....The police brought out tear gas and...water cannon....[leaving] the Boulevard du Montparnasse...looking like a war zone....

"I am in the Class Struggle" was a sticker sported by many protesters.... "The Struggle Is About Class Against Class," read one billboard....

Emmanuel Macron,...economic minister...and former Rothschild banker...was...greeted with eggs...and catcalls... "Get lost!" they shouted at him....

Mr. Macron is the darling of the businessmen's confederation and the favorite of...pro-capitalist media in France.

Lenin and Stalin still revered among workers

NYT, 6/14 — ...[The statue of] Lenin the Bolshevik leader had stood in this courtyard for nearly 100 years....Residents of the two apartment buildings nearby had taken up a collection to erect the monument....

It is very rare to see a Lenin toppled in Russia. A quarter-century after the end of the Soviet Union, thousands of Lenins large and small stand proudly in public squares or, as in this case, in quasi-private courtyards. Lenin himself...still lies in a glass coffin in a granite mausoleum in Red Square. A 70-foot statue of him in Kaluzhskaya Square is one of the largest monuments in the city....Even the few that were toppled in August 1991 have now been lovingly restored and are displayed in a sculpture

garden in the city center....
...Stalin's public image is being largely redeemed: His likeness has gone up on posters around the country, and he has been praised as a great military and industrial leader.

Racist U.S. massacres have exceeded Orlando's

NYT, 6/18 — Is the massacre in Orlando the worst mass shooting in United States history?...

...Characterizing Orlando as the worst ignores an ugly history of attacks that claimed more lives, most involv-

ing...black or Indian victims....

In Colfax, La., in 1873; in East St. Louis, Ill., in 1917; and in Tulsa, Okla., in 1921; mobs...attacked and killed large numbers of black people....In 1890, a cavalry regiment gunned down Lakota men, women and children on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota....By most estimates, the death toll was higher than in the Orlando attack.

Capitalist wars, persecution displaced 65 mill

NYT, 6/20 — The annual report by the United Nations...found that in 2015, 65.3 million people remained forcibly displaced from their homes....fleeing war, persecution, poverty or environmental devastation....

Half of all refugee children are out of school....

...The Obama....administration...is facing criticism...over a new round of deportations of Central Americans, including women and children....

...The latest refugee numbers amount to a report card on the failure of the world's most powerful leaders to end wars.

Clinton's welfare reform leaves millions destitute

NYT, 6/19 — In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a...bill for welfare reform....

...Welfare "reform" is a misnomer...

cash welfare is essentially dead, leaving some families with children utterly destitute....in the heartland of America....The embarrassing truth is that welfare reform has resulted in a layer of destitution that echoes poverty in countries like Bangladesh....

...Because of welfare reform, roughly three million American children live in households with income of less than \$2 per person per day, a global metric of extreme poverty.

Thousands hit U.S. imperialist bases

NYT, 6/20 — Tens of thousands of people on the Japanese island of Okinawa gathered...to demand the removal of American military bases in...the largest demonstration against the United States presence there in two decades.

The protest...was...a memorial for a 20-year-old woman who was found dead last month. A United States Marine veteran...working as a civilian contractor...has been arrested in connection with the killing....

Organizers said 65,000 people had attended the protest....the largest demonstration since 1995, when two American Marines and a Navy sailor were arrested over the rape of a 12-year-old girl....

With just a sliver of Japan's total land mass, Okinawa is home to about half the American soldiers and sailors stationed in Japan. About three-quarters of the acreage in Japan taken up by United States bases is on the island....

Murderers!

Teacher, Student Rebellion

Shake Fascist State

MEXICO CITY, June 28—As murderous capitalist rule in Mexico accelerates its decay into fascism, hundreds of thousands in the capital are protesting in solidarity with the teachers’ rebellion in the majority-indigenous state of Oaxaca. On June 19, at least ten workers were killed and dozens wounded after the cops opened fire on a group of teachers, students and other demonstrators blocking a major highway between Oaxaca and Mexico City.

Masses of rebels have taken the streets to protest racist President Enrique Peña Nieto’s education reforms. They were met by thousands of federal and local cops, as well as military forces equipped with riot gear, high-caliber weapons, planes, helicopters and tanks. The struggle is growing. On June 22, more than 200,000 doctors and nurses joined the teachers’ national strike to protest Pena Nieto’s Universal Health System reform, which they called a “disguised way of privatizing health in Mexico” (telesurtv.net, 6/21).

Progressive Labor Party is fighting with the working class in these battles. We are bringing communist revolutionary politics as an alternative to this capitalist hell that promotes relentless attacks on the working class and inter-imperialist war.

We call on all Party members to mobilize and protest at Mexican consulates in support of our class brothers and sisters in struggle. San Francisco and New York City comrades have responded with solidarity rallies (see more next issue). Workers: Struggles have no borders! Fight for communism!

Fighting the Terrorist State

More and more, the battles against racist cops and education reforms, which hurt indigenous and Black workers most of all, are becoming one fight against the ruling-class state apparatus. The rebels linked the murders of the protesting teachers to the 2014 disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers’ College in the state of Guerrero.

Organized by the National Coordinator of Educational Workers, a militant branch of the national teachers unión, teachers in Michoacán, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas have been on strike for a month to try to force the rulers to cancel the proposed education reforms. These bosses’ attacks would impose standardized testing and use teacher evaluations to discipline education workers, similar to anti-worker reforms in the United States. They would also severely curtail the in-



Workers beat back the racist attack, cops run away in fear.

fluence of the teacher unions and threaten teacher colleges with a history of class-conscious fightback.

Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero are the poorest states in Mexico; Michoacán is the tenth-poorest. That says a lot in a country where the minimum salary is 73 pesos—less than four U.S. dollars—a day!

The bosses’ immediate objective is to crush the most militant sector of Mexico’s working class: the teachers, and especially the teachers in Oaxaca, long a combative force. Communists understand that an attack on one section of the working class is a forewarning of attacks on the whole working class.

Workers Block Oil Refinery

The massacre of teachers in Oaxaca reflects a mandate for the Mexican capitalists from their big-power imperialist masters in the U.S. and China, who are competing to control natural resources throughout Latin America.

In contrast to the well-publicized teachers strike, the bosses’ media are ignoring a recent insurrection in

the Istmo de Tehuantepec, a region in Oaxaca State that includes the second-shortest route between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, after the Panama Canal. In the port of Salina Cruz, forces of resistance have blocked the entrance to the country’s biggest oil refinery run by Pemex, the state-owned petroleum company.

This area is of high economic, strategic and geopolitical importance—and a potential flashpoint of the rivalry between China and the U.S. After decades of trying to establish an industrial and logistics corridor, better known as the Transístmico, Pena Nieto inaugurated a wind farm in the Istmo (Milenio.com, 2/3/16), ignoring fierce opposition from teacher unions and indigenous groups that condemned the project as harmful to their way of life. As a report by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México noted, the prevailing model of wind energy development in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec “favors developers, limiting the benefits received by local communities and increasing social backlash against the projects”

(Problemas del Desarrollos, July-September 2014).

On March 4, the Communication and Transportation secretary inaugurated the Autopista Mitla-Tehuantepec, a 40-kilometer road through the Sierra Madre Mountains (Gobierno del Estado de Oaxaca, 4/3/16). In addition, a Transístmico train will connect Salinas Cruz, Oaxaca, with Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, creating a regional cluster of industry, including oil refineries. In June 2014, Pemex began building a pipeline to “allow for the transportation of cheap, clean and secure combustibles” (El Financiero, 1/27/15). The goal of Transístmico is to exploit the demand for transporting goods from the East coast of North America to China. Meanwhile, China will be able to further its interests in the petrochemical industry in Veracruz.

Fascist Control Aids Imperialist Aims

As a result of these high-stakes capitalist investments and the super-exploitation of local workers, resistance and repression are both

Continued on page 6

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